



**SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE DIVISION
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU**

**HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER
Policy Manual**

Section: SERVICES

**Subject: Environmental Accessibility
Adaptations**

References: ARM: 37.40.1485

DEFINITION

Environmental accessibility adaptations are physical adaptations to the member's home which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the member and are designed to maintain or improve the member's ability to remain at home. The procedure code for this service also includes reimbursement for consultation.

**GENERAL
SERVICE
REQUIREMENT**

When providing this service, the case management team must always take into account the nature of the member's disease or disability. If there is a reasonable expectation that the member's condition will deteriorate, this factor must be taken into account when making the modification.

Environmental accessibility adaptations:

1. must be functionally necessary and relate specifically to the member's disability;
2. must provide for the member's accessibility, increased independence, or safety in the home;
3. must be based on a reasonable expectation that the environmental adaptation will promote the member's functional abilities or the ability of a caregiver or service provider to maintain the member in the home;
4. must be the most adequate and cost effective modification that can meet the needs of the member;
5. may include the installation of specialized electrical and plumbing systems to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies that are necessary for the welfare of the member;

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6. will be limited to one time purchase. The Department at its discretion may authorize an exception to this limit. Any such exception must be prior authorized;
7. do not constitute general housing or appliance maintenance, including but not limited to plumbing, heating systems, and leisure items;
8. do not include the construction of more than one ramp in a residence
9. do not include those adaptations or improvements to the home which are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the waiver member, such as carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning, etc.
10. all services shall be provided in accordance with applicable state and local building codes;
11. must meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standards and specifications when feasible; and
12. jobs in excess of \$8000 must be prior authorized by the Regional Program Officer (RPO). Refer to HCBS 403, Appendix 899-21 and 899-22.

Under certain circumstances, adaptations may be completed while an individual is still in the hospital or nursing home. In those instances, if the member is unable to return to the residence (e.g. death or alternate placement), payment for services provided prior to hospital discharge can be reimbursed by Medicaid. However, the Case Management Team (CMT) must have completed a Service Plan (DPHHS-SLTC 135) or Service Plan Short Form (DPHHS-SLTC-135B) prior to the commencement of such services for reimbursement to be approved. Contact the Regional Program Officer (RPO) for approval and process.

Payment for this service may be made to legally responsible individuals, if program criteria are met. Refer to HCBS 604-1.